

film 108, and second display device 106. Touch screen 16 is discussed in detail below with reference to FIGS. 4A and 4B. Lighting module 112 may also be a separate enclosed structure that may be removably coupled to the back surface of optical module 100 through any known means. As illustrated in FIG. 2A, in one example, lighting module 112 may be removably coupled to optical module 100 via a plurality of mating members 202a, 202b, such as screws, bolts, tabs, or other removable fastening means. In another example illustrated in FIG. 2B, the optical module 100 may be removably coupled to lighting module 112 through tabs 204a, 204b that snap into a recess (not shown) of the optical module 100. It will now be realized that any other means to removably couple the optical and lighting modules together may be used, such as a key, latch, clip, and the like.

[0051] Separating the display devices and light source into separate but complementary structural modules allows each module to be hermetically sealed to prevent dust, dirt, and other contamination from being deposited on the display devices or lighting sources. As stated above, MLD systems are currently cooled by flowing external air across the light sources and LCD panels. This results in dirt and contamination collecting on the MLD system. Thus, by separating the optical module, the optical module may have a longer life and may not require any other maintenance other than replacement upon component failure.

[0052] Moreover, having the lighting module 112 separate from the optical module 100 allows a user to easily service, maintain, or replace the light sources as the illumination of the light sources decreases over time due to component deterioration (as with fluorescent light sources) or failure (as with incandescent light sources) while preserving the optical module 100. The optical module 100 will not be disturbed thereby preventing any dust or contaminate from entering the LCD panels to prevent premature failure. Furthermore, additional cooling techniques may be used which are not practical for integrated display systems, such as refrigerant-based systems using conduits as discussed above. Additionally, light sources other than fluorescent lights, such as short-lived incandescent lights, any other light sources not compatible with traditional display enclosures, or less expensive light sources, may be used. Thus, the ability to physically separate the optical module 100 from the lighting module 112 allows for independent access to either module and its components while preserving the other module. This also allows a user the ability to customize the lighting module to specific specification such as a desired intensity, specific light source, or a specific light configuration.

[0053] FIG. 3 illustrates a flow diagram of a method for displaying a game of chance on a gaming machine. A first visual image may be outputted and displayed on a first display device in an optical module at 300. The output may be in response to a control signal from a processor which may include one or more controllably transparent portions to allow a user to view a second visual image to play the game of chance outputted on a second display device in the optical module at 302. The first display device and the second display device may be arranged such that a common line of sight passes through a transparent portion of the first display device to a portion of the second display device to allow a player to view and play the game of chance.

[0054] Light may be emitted from a lighting module onto the optical module at 304. The lighting module may have a plurality of lights that generate heat. Thus, a cooling medium

may be flowed through the lighting module at 306. If the cooling medium is re-circulated within the gaming machine or flowed through a conduit at 308, the cooling medium may be flowed directly on a surface of the light source at 310. Since the re-circulated does not contain any contaminations such as dirt or dust from an external air source, the air may be flowed directly onto the surface of the light source to absorb the heat generated from the light source. Alternatively, conduits may be used to flow a cooling medium along the surface of the light source. Since the cooling medium is contained within the conduit, the light source will not break down or fail prematurely from contaminates such as dust or dirt from smoking, and the like. Furthermore, the use of a conduit allows for the flexibility to use various different cooling mediums such as liquid cooling mediums or a combination of liquid and gas cooling mediums. The heated cooling medium may be cooled using heat exchangers as discussed above.

[0055] If the cooling medium is not re-circulated or flowed within a conduit at 308, the cooling medium may be directed to the surface of the plate at 312. The plurality of light sources may be enclosed between a light diffuser and the plate. The light diffuser and plate may enclose the light sources to prevent any dirt, dust, or other contaminates from contaminating the light sources. Thus, to cool the lighting module, the air may be directed along the surface of the plate to absorb the heat generated from the plurality of lights. The heated cooling medium may then be exhausted out of the gaming machine at 314.

[0056] FIGS. 4A, 4B, and 4C illustrate an exemplary MLD system positioned in an exemplary gaming machine. Referring to FIG. 4A, a gaming machine 10 of a specific embodiment with layered displays includes a cabinet or housing 12 that houses exterior display device 18a, intermediate display device 18b (FIG. 4B only), interior display device 18c and a touchscreen 16.

[0057] Layered display devices may be described according to their position along a common line of sight relative to a viewer. As the terms are used herein, 'proximate' refers to a display device that is closer to a person, along a common line of sight (such as 20 in FIG. 4A), than another display device. Conversely, 'distal' refers to a display device that is farther from a person, along the common line of sight, than another. While the layered displays of FIGS. 4A and 4B are shown set back from touchscreen 16; this is for illustrative purposes and the exterior display device 18a may be closer to touchscreen 16.

[0058] The displays, however, permit digital output and all its benefits. For example, the digital domain permits external loading and changing of simulated reel games. This permits a casino or gaming establishment to change the output of images on each of the layered display devices, and their transparency, without physically altering the gaming machine or requiring maintenance. For example, the number of virtual slot reels may be changed from 3 to 5 to 9, or some other number. Symbols on each virtual slot reel may also be changed. Also, a pay table shown on display device 18a may be changed at will, in addition to changing whether a bonus or progressive game is shown on the intermediate display device. This permits the same gaming machine to play new games simply by downloading a data onto the machine. For a mechanical machine, this game change traditionally required manual and mechanical reconfiguration of a gaming machine, e.g., to change the number of reels for new reel game that requires five reels instead of three.